

Borough of




Gravesend

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For the Year 1946.

H. S. DAVIES,

M.D., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., D.P.H.



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HEALTH, MATERNITY AND
CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

THE MAYOR (Alderman Dr. J. I. Hagard, J.P.), Chairman.

ALDERMAN A. G. RAMSAY, Vice-Chairman.

ALDERMAN H. A. HODGE.

ALDERMAN H. ROBSON.

COUNCILLOR MRS. B. M. RICKETTS.

COUNCILLOR R. C. WATKINS, J.P.

COUNCILLOR H. ALDERSON.

COUNCILLOR A. R. HILLIER.

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. T. MCKENZIE.

COUNCILLOR MRS. G. A. MILLAR.

COUNCILLOR J. CAVEY.

COUNCILLOR A. E. H. JOHNSON, B.E.M.

Co-opted Members for Maternity and Child Welfare:—

MRS. E. CROFT, J.P.

MRS. I. WILKS.

MRS. G. E. LIFE.

MRS. A. R. GRAY.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

HERBERT S. DAVIES, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

DANIEL DESMOND, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (Cork),
Assistant Medical Officer of Health.

R. A. TRAN, L.D.S.,
Dental Surgeon.

J. E. BAKER, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

District Sanitary Inspectors:

F. H. MILLICAN, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

L. G. OWEN, C.R.S.I.

J. L. LOTT, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Health Visitors:

Miss M. SKIPPER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Miss M. THOMAS, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Miss I. LUCAS, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Clerical Staff:

S. V. TONGE, Chief Clerk.

Miss E. CLINCH, Secretary to Medical Officer.

A. H. BAKER.

Mrs. W. M. SANDFORD.

Mrs. G. H. FERGUSON.

Miss H. FOSTER.

Miss P. BLACKMAN.

(Note: The Sanitary Inspectors hold the Meat and Food Inspection Certificate and Health Visitors hold the Health Visitors' Certificate.)

Health Department,
3, Woodville Terrace,
Gravesend.

23rd August, 1947.

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMAN RAMSAY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

On May 1st of that year I returned from service with His Majesty's Forces to my post as your Medical Officer of Health.

There has been a considerable increase in the population. The estimated population to mid-year 1945 was 36,090. The Registrar General's estimate to mid-year 1946 was 40,340.

The Birth rate has risen to 25.4 per 1,000 of the population. It is the highest rate reached during the last 25 years. The death rate on the other hand has dropped to 10.8, which is the lowest rate since 1939. The infant mortality rate of 27.3 is the lowest recorded in the Borough.

There is a lessened incidence of notifiable infectious diseases, with the regrettable exception of Tuberculosis. This disease is closely connected with the housing problem, and I am grateful to the Estates Committee for the way in which they have considered the cases I have put before them.

1946 has been a year of solid achievement, and the Health Committee has every reason to feel that its hard and enthusiastic work is bearing fruit. The year has seen the launching of a new and enlarged Home Help Scheme, of new arrangements for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, and of advances in the care of the premature infant.

Especially must be mentioned the scheme to adapt the old Isolation Hospital in Whitehill Lane for the purposes of a modern Maternity Home. This scheme is now well in hand, and we hope that the Home will soon be opened.

I should like to express my thanks to the Council, and especially to the Chairman and all the members of the Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, for their interest and enthusiastic support throughout the year.

I also wish to take this opportunity of thanking my entire staff for their loyal co-operation, which has played no small part in maintaining the standard of the health services of the Borough.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Alderman Ramsay, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. S. DAVIES,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

SECTION "A."

Area of the Borough (acres)	4,619
Registrar-General's estimate of the Population	40,340
Number of separate inhabited houses estimated	12,700
Rateable Value	£341,544
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,376
Rates (to 31st March, 1947)—17/4d. in the £	

Employment and Unemployment.

The chief industries in the locality are:— paper making, light and marine engineering, cement, electrical equipment. A large number of men are employed in the Merchant Navy, on river craft, and in dock work.

There is a demand for men and women both in skilled and in unskilled work.

Unemployment has remained at a low level, but statistics which apply only to the Borough, are not available.

Registered Live Births:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	489	478	967
Illegitimate	29	29	58
Total Live Births	518	507	1025

Birth Rate per 1,000 population 25.40
(There is an increase of 264 over the number of births last year.)

Still Births:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	11	12	23
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Total Still Births	12	12	24

Still Birth Rate, i.e., Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 22.8.

Registered Deaths (all causes):

	Males.	Females.	Total.
	246	191	437
Death Rate per 1,000 population ...	...	...	10.83
(The previous year it was 11.9.)			

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's List)

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births.
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis ...	Nil	Nil
Other maternal causes	1	.95
	<hr/> 1	<hr/> .95

The Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales is:—
Puerperal infections 0.18, other Maternal causes 1.06.

Number of Infant Deaths—under 1 year of age:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate Infants	15	12	27
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	<hr/> —	<hr/> —	<hr/> —
Total ...	16	12	28
	<hr/> —	<hr/> —	<hr/> —

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:

Infant Mortality Rate, i.e., All Infants per 1,000 live births	27.31
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	27.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	17.2

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	66
„ „ Measles (all ages) ...	1
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	6

Comparative Birth and Death Rates.

Rates	Gravesend	England and Wales	148 "Smaller Towns" Population of 25,000 to 50,000
Birth Rate	25.4	19.1	21.3
Death Rate	10.83	11.5	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate	27.31	43.0	37.0

SECTION " B."

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

The County Council provide facilities for pathological examinations at their Laboratories in Maidstone, and this arrangement has proved satisfactory.

The following specimens have been examined and reported on:—

A.	(1) Sputum—Examinations for Tubercle Bacilli	...	35
	(2) Swabs—	„ „ Diphtheria	44
		„ „ Streptococci	2
	(3) Faeces—	„ „ Pathogenic Organisms	4
Total			85
<hr/>			
B.	(1) Milk—Bacteriological Examinations	... ..	89
	(2) Water—	„ „	26
Total			115

Ambulance Services—Non-Infectious Cases.

The service is administered by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. Four ambulances are stationed at Commercial Place. The Borough Council pay the Brigade £800 a year for the street accident service.

Infectious Cases.

The Council provide their own Infectious Diseases Ambulance which is stationed on Corporation premises at Swan Yard.

Home Nursing.

The Council contribute £100 per annum to the Gravesend and District Nursing Association which is affiliated to the Queen's Institute of Nursing. This Voluntary Association is doing excellent work.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

The Gravesend Borough Council administer the following clinics—details will be found elsewhere in this report:—

- (1) Ante-natal Clinic.
- (2) Infant Welfare Clinic.
- (3) Gynaecological and Birth Control Clinic.
- (4) Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic.
- (5) Dental Clinic.

Tuberculosis Clinic.

The Kent County Tuberculosis Clinic is held at the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, every Wednesday at 1 p.m.

Veneral Diseases Clinic.

Administrative arrangements are under the control of the Kent County Council.

The Gravesend Clinic at 22 Cobham Street is held at the following times:—

Male.	Female.
Monday: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.	9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Tuesday: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.	1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Wednesday: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.	9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday: 3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.	2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.
Friday: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.	9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday: 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.	9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Special Clinic: Medical Officer attends.

Tuesday: 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Thursday: 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.	2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Hospitals.

The Gravesend and North Kent Hospital is used extensively by the inhabitants of the district. It is a Voluntary Hospital, having 115 Beds, including 9 Maternity.

The Out-Patient Clinics of the Hospital are as follows:—

Monday.		
11.0 a.m.	Traumatic Clinic	Mr. M. Landau
11.30 a.m.	Ear, Nose & Throat	Mr. C. G. E.
5.0 p.m. (by appointment with Almoner)	Surgical	Plumstead Mr. Sol. Cohen
Tuesday.		
11.30 a.m.	Surgical Out. Pat. & Varicose Veins	Mr. K. W. D. Hartley
2.0 p.m.		
2.30 p.m.	Ante-Natal Gynaecological	Mr. F. S. Horrocks & Mr. A. M. Hunter

Wednesday.

10.0	a.m.	(By appointment) C.O.2	Mr. C. A. White
10.0	a.m.	(By appointment) Fracture Clinic (Plasters)	Mr. M. Landau
1.0	p.m.	(By appointment) K.C.C. Chest Clinic	
3.0	p.m.	(By appointment) Psychiatric Clinic with Almoner)	Mr. S. W. Hardwick

Thursday.

9.30	a.m.	Ophthalmic	Mr. W. E. Heath
10.30	a.m.	Orthopaedic	Mr. J. S. Batchelor
12.0	noon	Electro-Medical	Mr. K. W. D. Hartley

Friday.

8.30	a.m.	Dental Clinic	Mr. F. T. Wilkinson
11.15	a.m.	(By appointment) Fracture Clinic	Mr. M. Landau

Saturday.

11.0	a.m.	Medical Out-patients	Mr. J. Crawford
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Dressings Daily at 9.0 a.m.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Notification of Births.

Births are required to be notified under Section 203, Public Health Act, 1936. The number of notifications received was 1,246. After correction for those whose usual residence is elsewhere (i.e., 44 transferred "In," and 274 transferred "Out") the number properly belonging to the Borough was 1,016 compared with 774 in the previous year.

Area Distribution.

		Live Births.	Still Births
Gravesend	...	268	9
Milton	...	331	5
Denton	...	212	2
King's Farm	...	145	—
		<u>956</u>	<u>16</u>

Of the total 972 (live and still) births, occurring in Gravesend, 488 infants were born in Hospitals and Nursing Homes, and 484 were born at home. This represents 50.2% born in institutions.

In addition, there are recorded 44 confinements of Gravesend residents in institutions outside the Borough. On the other hand 271 non-residents were confined in Gravesend institutions.

Health Visiting.

The following is a summary of the visits paid by the 3 Health Visitors:—

(i) To expectant Mothers: First Visits	83	Total Visits	116
(ii) To children under 1: First Visits	1060	Total Visits	3215
(iii) To children between 1 and 5 years	... ..	Total Visits	2361

PREMATURE INFANTS.

The recommendation of the Ministry of Health—circular 20/44 have been implemented as far as possible.

Information as to weight at birth, when this is 5½ lbs. or less, is obtained from the notification of birth forms, and in each case, special enquiries and follow-up are made by the Health Visitor to ascertain whether there is adequate provision.

The Council have supplied the following special equipment which is available for loan at all times:—

Draught-proof cot with detachable lining, suitable warm clothing, hot water bottles, special feeding bottles, thermometer, mucus catheter, baby scales, etc.

Statistical summary is as follows:—

Premature Births.	Total	...	36
(1) Total number who were born:			
(a) at home	...	...	15
(b) in hospital	...	...	18
(c) nursing home	...	...	3
(2) The number of those born at home:			
(a) who were nursed entirely at home	...	...	12
(b) who died during the first 24 hours	...	...	4
(c) who survived at the end of 1 month	...	...	11
(3) The number of those born in Hospital:			
(a) who died during the first 24 hours	...	...	1
(b) who survived at the end of 1 month	...	...	11
(4) The number of those born in Nursing Homes:			
(a) who died during the first 24 hours	...	...	Nil
(b) who survived at the end of 1 month	...	...	3

Child Life Protection—Sect.206-220 Public Health Act, 1936.

Children who are placed in the care of foster parents by private arrangements, are, in certain circumstances, subject to the supervision of the Local Authority. Supervision is exercised through the Health Visitors who are the Child Protection Visitors.

Six children were supervised during the year, and 21 visits were made.

Two of the children were removed by parents and placed in the care of relatives. One child returned to parents, and one was legally adopted. Two remained under supervision at the end of the year.

No legal proceedings were taken and no orders were applied for.

Care of the Unmarried Mother and Her Child.

Realising the importance of this problem, the Council have entirely reconsidered the position during this year. A decision was reached that the work could be most adequately performed through the medium of the Local Branch of the Rochester Diocesan Moral Welfare Council. This Association has recently equipped, opened and staffed a new Home at Kendall House, Pelham Road, for this work. The Worker, Sister Watson, C.A., is in close touch with the needs of the district, co-operating fully with our Health Visitors. The Corporation have decided to subscribe £100 a year to the work, and also, to pay 30/- per week (for a maximum of 26 weeks), for each Gravesend girl received into Kendall House or other suitable institution.

Day Nurseries.

The Council reviewed the facilities early in the year. Accommodation and attendances are shown in the following table:—

	Date of opening	No. of Places provided	Average No. on the Register	Daily Average Attendances
"Daneholme," Pelham Road	Jan., 1942	30	45	30
"Glendillon," Old Rd. East	April, 1942	40	44	29
"The Nest," Rochester Rd.	Jan., 1940	38	32	20

The 100% Exchequer Grant was reduced in April, 1946, to approximately 52%. The charge to parents is 6/- per week, and after allowing for the Government grant, there remains about 12/- per child per week, to be met from local rates.

After careful consideration it was decided to continue Daneholme and Glendillon. The Nest at Denton, however, was never used to capacity and this Nursery was closed on 20th April. The children were transferred to the other Nurseries.

Transport facilities are provided for Denton children where necessary.

Attendances at the Nurseries have fluctuated during the year, and a few cases of Measles kept a number of infants away for considerable periods.

Staffing Arrangements.

“Daneholme” and “Glendillon” have a Matron who is in charge of both nurseries. There is at each nursery a Deputy Matron, 3 Nursery Nurses and 5 students. Unfortunately, we have been unable to obtain qualified teachers. The Warden, normally employed at “Glendillon,” has divided her time between the two nurseries.

It has been difficult to obtain suitable student nurses, and some have resigned after short periods to take up other work.

The Nurseries are at present affiliated to the National Society of Childrens’ Nurseries, and we are anxious that they shall continue to be used as training schools.

General Considerations.

Although originally designed by the Government to enable mothers to enter industry, there is little doubt that, quite apart from this point, the children entering the Nurseries derive great benefit therefrom. The incidence of infection has not proved high. The children live very healthy lives and develop excellent habits. Of even greater advantage is their improved social behaviour. There is no doubt that they learn to adapt themselves to other children and to the community as a whole in a very remarkable way. They develop more fully and earlier, than children denied the advantage of simple teaching and community play. Teachers from Infant Departments constantly remark on the difference between children who come to them after Nursery training compared with those who have not previously left home.

“Home Helps” and “Domestic Help” Scheme.

A new scheme for Home and Domestic Helps has been launched. Previously the demand was not great, and had been adequately met by 3 women taking full-time maternity cases, and 4 who only accepted part-time work. Those on full-time work were paid a weekly rate of £3 12s. 0d. with a retaining fee of 10/- a week between cases. The hourly rate for part-time workers was 1/6. The hours were adjustable according to needs, but the average for a 14 day maternity case was 8 a.m.—5 p.m. with one afternoon a week off.

Towards the end of the year the demand increased considerably. The workers were found to be insufficient to meet it, and it was not possible to recruit new helpers. The Council, therefore, adopted the rate of 1/9³/₄d. per hour, referred to in Circular 110/46, and the scheme was much enlarged. Three women were appointed on a full-time basis, receiving £4 5s. 2d. per week, and kept continuously employed. In addition, a rota of 18 helpers was established, some of whom are available for occasional full-time cases, some doing only part-time work. These are paid 1/9³/₄d. per hour, or £4 5s. 2d. for a 47 hour week when on a full-time case. No retaining fees are paid. This scheme has worked well. It has proved sufficiently elastic and the supply of workers is reasonably adequate to the demand.

Home and Domestic Help Figures—1946.

No. of Home Help Cases (full-time for 14 days or over) ...	62
No. of Home Help Cases (full-time for less than 14 days) ...	4
No. of Home Help Cases (less than 8 hrs. per day) ...	Nil
No. of Domestic Help Cases (full-time for a period) ...	10
No. of Domestic Help Cases (few hours a day) ...	15

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

Since the last report, the Welfare Centre at the Gordon Mission has been transferred to more suitable premises at “The Nest,” Rochester Road.

The three Welfare Centres in the Borough are Windmill Street (Central), Whitehill (King's Farm Estate), and "The Nest" (Denton and Chalk district). The sessions are as follows:—

	<i>Windmill Street</i>	<i>Whitehill</i>	<i>"The Nest"</i>
Monday	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
	Child Welfare; Health Visitors Consultations, Baby weighing; Sale of Foods, etc.	Ante-Natal Clinic	Ante-Natal Clinic
Tuesday	Afternoon		
	Child Welfare Clinic with Medical Officer in attendance	—	—
Wednesday			Afternoon
	—	—	Child Welfare Clinic with Medical Officer in attendance. Sale of Foods, etc.
Thursday	Afternoon	Afternoon	
	Ante-Natal Clinic	Child Welfare Session with Medical Officer in attendance. Sale of Foods, etc.	
Friday	Afternoon		
	Child Welfare Clinic; Health Visitors Consultations; Baby Weighing; Sale of Foods, etc.		—

Milk Foods.

Dried Milk foods, vitamin and other special medical preparations are sold at special prices to mothers attending the clinic, by members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committee. Certain products in short supply are provided on recommendation of the Medical Officer or Health Visitor.

Attendances at Child Welfare Centres.

The attendances at the three Welfare Centres during the year were:—

(a) Individual children under 1 year of age	...	...	835
(b) Individual children between 1 and 5 years	...	...	1741
(c) Total number of attendances of all children under 5	...	...	14042

For the year 1945 the figures were:—

(a) 624	(b) 987	(c) 3143
---------	---------	----------

In 1946 the receipts for milk foods, etc., amounted to £6,280.

Ladies' Voluntary Committee.

The members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committee have continued throughout the year to give service at the Welfare Centres in connection with the sale of goods at cost price, weighing of infants and other work. They make a valuable contribution to the success of the centres, and their work is greatly appreciated by staff and mothers alike.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

An ante-natal clinic is held every week at each of the three centres in the town. The session previously held at Gordon Mission, has now been transferred to the "Nest," where the accommodation is more adequate.

In all 258 expectant mothers attended the clinics. The total attendances were 856, as against 474 in the previous year.

The Council are appointing a woman Medical Officer to be in charge both of the ante-natal clinics and the new maternity home.

Gynaecological Clinic.

This clinic, which is conducted by Dr. L. Hemmant, has been functioning for a number of years. It provides advice to married women suffering from gynaecological conditions or from any form of sickness likely to render pregnancy detrimental to health.

The following is a summary of the year's work:—

Number of Sessions	...	...	11
Total attendances	...	...	161
New Cases:			
Minor Gynaecological disorders	...		12
Advice on Contraception	...	...	54
			—
		Total ...	66
			—

The types of disorders dealt with included the following:—
Tuberculosis, Recent Caesarean Section, Heart disease, History of Toxaemia of pregnancy.

Thirteen patients could not be treated at the clinic, there being no medical reason against pregnancy.

The year's work has been very satisfactory and shows a steady increase over previous years.

Dental Treatment.

The Corporation's Dental Clinic in Manor Road was taken over by the Kent County Council under the Education Act 1944. Arrangements have been made for Expectant and Nursing Mothers and children under 5 to receive Dental treatment as before.

Two regular sessions are held per week and additional sessions are arranged as necessary. The Dental Surgeon also attends each of the three Welfare Centres once a month.

The following work has been done during the year:—

No. of Mothers inspected	113
No. of Mothers referred for treatment	112
No. of Pre-school children referred for treatment ...	36

TREATMENT (MOTHERS):—

Extractions	748	No. of Gas Cases ...	91
Fillings	69	Other Operations ...	280
Dentures supplied ...	82	Total Individual Mothers	85

Total number of attendances: 614. Cash Receipts: £119 4s. 6d.

TREATMENT (PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN):—

Extractions	54	No. of Gas Cases ...	30
Fillings	27	Other Operations ...	—
No. of individual children treated	40		
Total number of attendances for treatment	81		

Ophthalmic Treatment.

Pre-school children requiring Ophthalmic Treatment are referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon, who is responsible also for school children.

Number of children under 5 referred for treatment ... 23

Tonsils and Adenoids.

Pre-school children needing operative treatment for Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids are dealt with under arrangements with Gravesend and North Kent Hospital.

Number of children treated in 1946 3

Orthopædic Treatment.

Children under 5 years of age, for whom orthopædic facilities are required, are referred to the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, where they are seen by the Orthopædic Specialist, Mr. J. S. Batchelor, F.R.C.S. Arrangements are made for hospital accommodation and after-care.

Fourteen children were referred under the scheme by the Medical Officer. Two children were admitted to St. Vincent's Orthopædic Hospital, Pinner.

A surgical appliance was provided for one boy, and in three other cases special shoe fittings were supplied. Massage treatment was carried out in three cases.

In all 33 attendances for treatment were made at the Hospital.

Minor Ailments Clinics—School Children.

These clinics have been taken over by the Kent County Council, under the Education Act 1944. They are held daily at 9.0 a.m. at Windmill Street Clinic, and on Tuesdays and Fridays at 10.30 a.m. at the Nest, Denton. A Medical Officer is in attendance at each session.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service.

The Kent County Council are the Local Supervising Authorities under the Midwives Acts 1902 to 1936. They employ six midwives in the Gravesend Area.

During the year, 474 births in the district were delivered by midwives. 92 were attended by medical practitioners, midwives acting as maternity nurses.

Co-operation between the County Midwives and the Health Visitors employed by the Corporation has been maintained. The assistance of the Midwives at the Ante-Natal Clinics is much appreciated.

Institutional Midwifery—Unsuitable Home Conditions.

The present housing conditions, together with the rise in the birth rate, have created a heavy demand for institutional midwifery. Great difficulty has been experienced in finding accommodation for many women whose confinement at home would be out of the question.

Eighteen of the most urgent cases were admitted to the County Hospital. Twelve patients went to Broadwater Down Maternity Home, Tonbridge.

The Borough Council accept financial responsibility, and a charge is made to the patients according to financial circumstances.

Abnormal Maternity Patients.

Abnormal maternity cases are admitted to the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital under the arrangements made by the Corporation.

Thirty women were treated during the year. The number for 1945 was 24.

Maternal Deaths.

One death occurred from abnormalities in childbirth. The birth took place in a nursing home, and the patient was later removed to hospital. The death was certified as follows:—
(a) Surgical Shock. (b) Inversion of the Uterus. (c) Adherent placenta.

This case is responsible for the maternal mortality rate of .95 per 1,000 births (live and still) for "other maternal causes." The corresponding rate for England and Wales is 1.06.

There were no deaths from Puerperal infections, or from abortion with or without sepsis.

Registration and Supervision of Nursing Homes.

Nursing Homes are governed by Section 187-195 of the Public Health Act 1936.

The main object of the provisions is to prevent, among other things, the owners of nursing homes, which are run for profit, from endangering the health and safety of patients by the use of unsuitable premises, inadequate equipment and unqualified staff.

There are two nursing homes in the Borough. Ten inspections were made.

(1) Maternity Home—12 beds.

(2) Home for Medical Cases, chiefly old people—10 beds.

In both cases the accommodation is very urgently needed. They have both been carried on under enormous difficulties; the chief difficulty is, of course, the lack of qualified staff.

The Maternity Home received the special consideration of the Council. The proprietress, who had already exceeded the number of beds allowed, re-applied for registration under Section 187 of the Public Health Act 1936, in order to increase the accommodation from 12 to 21 beds.

The Council's decision at the end of the year was as follows:

"It was resolved that the Town Clerk be instructed to inform the proprietress that fire-fighting arrangements and improved sanitary arrangements were to be provided to the satisfaction of the Medical Officer of Health, and that consent could only be given to an extra two maternity cases to be treated at the home."

ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR THE DISCOVERY OF UNREGISTERED HOMES.

1. The Birth Notifications are examined to check the addresses at which the births occur.
2. Health Visitors and the staff are instructed to look out for unregistered homes.
3. Local newspapers are perused for advertisements of unregistered homes.

SANITARY INSPECTION, HOUSING AND FOOD

Mr. J. E. Baker, Chief Sanitary Inspector, has supplied the statistics relating to Sanitary Inspection, Housing, and Food Inspection.

SECTION "C "

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.

- (1) Two public water companies supply water to the Borough.
The water has been satisfactory:
 - (a) In quantity.
 - (b) In quality.
- (2) The water in both supplies is hard and there is no evidence of plumbo-solvent action.
- (3) Twenty dwelling houses, containing in all sixty persons, are supplied from public mains by means of stand pipes. The remainder of the population of the Borough is supplied direct to houses.
- (4) BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION. Raw water has not been examined. Twenty-three samples were taken of water going into supply. All were satisfactory.

	No. of Samples Examined.	Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.
Gravesend and Milton Water Co. Supply ...	12	12	0
Higham and Hundred of Hoo Co. Supply	11	11	0
	—	—	—
	23	23	0
	—	—	—

- (5) CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.
Two samples, one from each Company, were taken for chemical analysis. Both reports are satisfactory.

Analyst's Report.

	No. 1. Gravesend & Milton Water Co. Supply.	No. 2. Higham & Hundred of Hoo Water Co. Supply.
Appearance	Clear	Clear
Smell	Normal	Normal
Colour	Green-blue	Green-blue
Chlorine in Chlorides	1.12	1.19
Phosphoric Acid in Phosphates ...	None	None
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.46	0.44
Ammonia	Trace only	None
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0008	0.0014

Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. ...	Trace only	Trace only
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. ...	0.016	0.016
Hardness before boiling (total) ...	18.9	18.1
Hardness after boiling (permanent) ...	2.2	2.5
Total solid matter ...	24.92	24.92
Microscopical examination of deposit ...	Slight and unimportant	Slight and unimportant
“Free Chlorine” ...	Slight. Under 0.05 per million.	0.2 per million
Metallic Impregnation (copper, lead, zinc) ...	None	None

(Numerical results expressed in grains per gallon).

REMARKS. The above results are satisfactory throughout and indicate waters organically pure and free from sewage percolation.

The microscopical examination is also satisfactory. The amount of residual chlorine in both cases shows that chlorination has been efficient.

Corporation Bathing Pool.

I am indebted to G. E. Hill, Esq., B.A., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.M. & C.E., the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, for the following particulars:—

A new Open-air Bathing Pool was opened on 18th July, 1938, and has accommodation for 800 bathers at any time, and further provision can be made if necessary.

The main pool is 150 feet long by 75 feet wide and has two shallow areas and a diving pit. The diving apparatus includes the following diving boards:—1-metre fixed; 1-metre spring; 3-metre fixed; 3-metre spring; and a 5-metre fixed and a chute.

Wide surrounds and large areas provided for sun-bathing, whilst a spectators' terrace surrounds the site.

On the first floor of the building a Café and Spectators' Gallery is provided, affording a splendid view of the whole site.

The Children's Paddling Pool, 50 feet by 50 feet, with its own surround, is separated from the main pool by a terrace.

The 400,000 gallons of water in the pools is filtered, aerated, sterilised and heated by the most up-to-date and efficient plant, ensuring bathing with perfect safety and an even temperature, with a complete change of water every six hours.

During the season the following persons used the Pools:—

Bathers	...	...	...	...	...	...	66,848
Spectators	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,267
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,186
Season Pass	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,316
Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,155
Forces	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,850
							<hr/> 93,622 <hr/>

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Three examinations were made. Two samples were unsatisfactory. Conditions were investigated and a subsequent sample was found to be satisfactory.

Administration of Factories Act 1937.

The Council has the duty to enforce certain provisions of Part I and Part VIII of the Factories Act 1937.

Administrative arrangements include the following:—

PART I—HEALTH (GENERAL PROVISIONS).

- (1) *Registration* of all factories.
- (2) *Inspection* of sanitary conveniences in all factories.
- (3) *Inspection* with regard to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors in all factories in which mechanical power is not used.

PART VIII—HOMEWORK.

- (1) *Examination of lists*, supplied to the Council by employers, of outworkers in certain specified trades.
- (2) *Notification* of name and place of employment of any home worker employed outside the Borough to the Council in whose district his employment is situated.
- (3) *Inspection of premises* in which the outworker pursues his occupation.

Factories have been inspected as far as possible during the year 1946, and the provisions of the Act, so far as they affect Local Authorities, have been enforced. The following table shows the work carried out:—

	Number on Register.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Defects Remedied.
Factories with Mechanical Power	88	53	3	11
Factories without Mechanical Power	62	26	1	2
Basement Bakehouses	7	10	2	2
	<hr/> 157 <hr/>	<hr/> 89 <hr/>	<hr/> 6 <hr/>	<hr/> 15 <hr/>

1.	Total number of outworkers notified to Gravesend Council 1946 (Under I (c) of Sect. 110 Factories Act 1937) ...	9
2.	Total number of outworkers notified by Gravesend Council to other Councils (Under 2 of Sect. 110 Factories Act 1937)	2
3.	Total number of outworkers notified to Gravesend by other Councils	3
4.	Total number of outworkers employed in Gravesend ...	10
5.	Total number of inspections of work places (Under III (1) Factories Act 1937)	4
6.	List of scheduled occupations followed by outworkers employed in premises in Gravesend:—	
	Wearing apparel, making, etc.	9
	Wireless and electrical work	1

Summary of Inspections and Revisits.

Dwelling houses inspected	1260
Re-inspections	2636
Visits to other premises:—	
Bakehouses	49
Butchers' shops	118
Butchers' shops (for inspection of meat)	21
Cowsheds	9
Dairies and milkshops	95
Dining rooms and cafés	29
Factories (with power)	53
Factories (without power)	26
Fishmongers	11
Fish Frying	33
Greengrocers	23
Gut scraping	2
Ice Cream premises	135
Infectious disease	109
Other food preparing places	129
Outworkers	4
Piggeries	12
Places of entertainment	17
Provision shops	63
Public conveniences	1243
Rats and mice	2852
Schools	1
Shops Act	7
Slaughterhouses	731
Smoke observations	1
Urinals	14
Miscellaneous	539
Total visits of all kinds	10,222

Notices Served and Complied With.

In respect of dwelling houses:

Informal notices	...	...	...	...	...	596
Statutory notices	...	...	...	...	...	76
Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	547

In respect of other premises:

Informal notices	...	...	...	...	...	34
Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	39

Nuisances and Defects Remedied.

Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	20
Animals in unfit state	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	190
Ceilings repaired and/or cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	231
Cesspools—New constructed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Filled in	...	...	...	...	...	8
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	—
Chimney Stacks—Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	23
New pots provided	...	...	...	...	...	12
Coppers—New provided	...	...	...	...	...	8
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	24
Dampness—Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	183
Guttering repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	76
Hopper heads provided	...	...	...	...	...	15
R.W.P.'s repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	55
External walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	24
External walls repointed	...	...	...	...	...	19
External walls rendered	...	...	...	...	...	15
Damp-proof courses provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sub-floor ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	20
Doors and door sills repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dirty houses cleansed by occupiers	...	...	...	...	...	5
Drainage—Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Drains relaid	...	...	...	...	...	16
Drains partly relaid	...	...	...	...	...	10
Drains unstopped	...	...	...	...	...	17
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	...	7
Soil and vent pipes removed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Soil and vent pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Soil and vent pipes—new provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	55
Light and ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	1
Paving relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	19
Sinks—New provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sink or bath waste pipes renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
Stair handrails provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Stair treads and balusters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
Stoves renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	28

Urinals—Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	2
New provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Verminous premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	55
Walls (internal) repaired and/or repapered, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	177
Washhouses repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Water supply—Water pipes, etc., repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cisterns removed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water closets—Number dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	54
New constructed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Repaired and/or cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	20
New pans	...	...	...	...	...	28
Flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	20
Windows—Renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	46
Sash cords provided	...	...	...	...	...	143
Other matters	...	...	...	...	...	16

Legal Proceedings.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936, SECTION 93.

Proceedings were taken against an owner of property for failing to comply with an Abatement Notice requiring the execution of repairs. An order was made for the execution of the work in 28 days, with 8/6 costs.

Eradication of Vermin.

The work of disinfestation of Council houses is carried out by the Local Authority. Infested rooms and furniture are sprayed with insecticide, and two or more sprayings, as found necessary, are applied, with intervals of from three to seven days.

Premises belonging to private owners are also disinfested on request, and the cost of the work is charged to the owners concerned.

Particulars of action taken during 1946:—

	Council houses.	Other houses.	Total.
Number of houses found to be infested	13	42	55
Number of houses disinfested	13	42	55

In addition, disinfestation was carried out at a number of premises for eradication of moths, cockroaches and wasps.

Shops Acts, 1912-1934.

Shops have been kept under observation during the year, and two notices to provide washing facilities were served and complied with.

Drain Testing.

28 sets of drains were tested during the year; of these 22 were found to be sound and in order, and 6 or 22.14 per cent were found to be defective.

In all cases where drains were defective, they were repaired or relaid, as necessary.

Cesspool and Pail System.

8,887 tons of sewage were removed from 653 cesspools as against 5,250 tons from 448 cesspools the previous year.

There are approximately 30 pails in use in the Borough. Seven of these are emptied twice weekly by the Public Health Department, and the remainder are dealt with by the owners or occupiers.

House and Trade Refuse Removal and Disposal.

Six Shelvoke & Drewry freighters and two Thornycroft vehicles are employed in the collection of house and trade refuse and salvage.

Disposal is effected by means of controlled tipping on land at Denton Marshes. This tip has been in use since January, 1944. During 1946, 8,946 tons of refuse were collected and tipped, as against 8,681 tons the previous year.

Salvage.

Salvage materials collected and sold during the year were as follows:—

Materials.	Weight.			Value.		
	Tons	Cwts.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Bones	1	11	12	8	5	7
Bottles and Jars	29	2	28	296	15	9
Food Waste	490	15	84	965	10	0
Metal, ferrous	5	1	84	6	11	0
Metal, non-ferrous		8	90	15	8	10
String		15	64	3	17	10
Textiles	5	8	103	68	6	4
Waste Paper	221	3	67	1503	10	3
	754	7	84	£2868	5	7

Disinfection of Premises.

66 premises were disinfected, and 86 batches of clothing and bedding were disinfected and returned or, in some cases, destroyed.

Public Conveniences.

The public conveniences have been cleansed and flushed daily by the Health Department during the past year.

The conveniences at 14 licensed premises are cleansed by the Health Department in consideration of the fact that they remain open for use of the general public.

Conveniences attached to other licensed premises have also been kept under supervision, and notices for cleansing served where necessary.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

All infested premises brought to the notice of the Public Health Department during the year were dealt with. The cost of disinfection at business premises by the Council's Rodent Officer is charged to the occupiers, but the work at private houses is carried out free.

The following report summarises the work carried out during the year 1946:—

Number of infested premises brought forward from							
1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Premises reported as infested during 1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	321
Premises cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	390
Total number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	2852
Premises still under observation at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Estimated number of rats killed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3292

In addition to the above, a special survey of the district was carried out during the period 4th February, 1946, to 30th April, 1946, resulting in the clearance of 89 premises found to be infested, with an estimated kill of 1,283 rats.

The sewers were also treated during the period 7th October, 1946, to 11th December, 1946, two treatments being given.

In the first treatment 1,004 sewer manholes were prebaited. Infestation was found in 405, and poison baits were laid in 806.

In the second treatment, 595 manholes were prebaited. Infestation was found in 94, and poison baits were laid in 241.

The first treatment showed that 40.3 per cent of the manholes treated were infested, and the second treatment showed that 15.7 per cent were infested.

It was not possible to record the estimated number of rats killed in this operation, although the number must have been very considerable, as the Ministry of Food did not consider it necessary to record the amount of poison bait consumed.

SECTION “ D ”

HOUSING

Housing conditions have continued to be an anxiety to the Health Department. To be powerless to assist deserving cases, knowing that there are families in greater need which must have priority, is a depressing experience which I know is shared by many Medical Officers of Health.

The Estates Committee allocate the accommodation as it becomes available, after the most careful consideration, and I am grateful to them for the way in which they have considered the cases I have put before them, and more especially for the patients suffering from Tuberculosis who have been rehoused during the year.

The Borough Architect has kindly supplied the following information:—

Houses completed 1946/7 (including 7 rebuilds)	...	157
Contemplated 1947/48	... ..	463
„ 1948/49	... ..	836
„ 1949/50	... ..	700
		<hr/>
		2156
		<hr/>

Housing Statistics.

Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	1217
Number of inspections made for that purpose	...	3896
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	596
Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices: Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	... ..	487
Action under statutory powers (Public Health Act): Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	76
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which such defects were remedied:		
(a) by Owners	... ..	56
(b) by Local Authority in default of owner	...	4

SECTION "E "

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.

There are two dairy farms in the Borough. Nine visits of inspection were made, and it was found necessary to make three requests to cleanse premises. 95 visits of inspection to milkshops and dairies were made.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

The following table shows the number of samples taken and the results obtained on bacteriological examination:—

Designation.	No. of Samples.	Methylene Blue Test.		Phosphatase Test.	
		Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.	Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.
Pasteurised ...	84	78	6	82	2

Tuberculin Tested ...	No. of Samples.	Methylene Blue Test.		Coliform Bacilli	
		Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.	Absent.	Present.
Tested ...	19	16	3	17	2

Ungraded ...	No. of Samples.	Plate Count.		Phosphatase Test.	
		Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.	Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.
Ungraded ...	24	24	—	18	6

Ten samples were also examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli, eight giving a negative result. Two samples showed tubercle bacilli to be present, and the necessary action was taken regarding these samples.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following licences were issued during the year under the above Order:—

“Tuberculin Tested” Milk:	Bottling Licences	...	...	3
	Dealer’s Supplementary Licence	...	...	1
“Pasteurised” Milk:	Pasteurisers’ Licences	...		2
	Dealers’ Licences	...	...	8
	Dealer’s Supplementary Licence	...	...	1

Ice Cream.

There are 24 premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of ice cream, and three for the manufacture and sale of ice cream. 135 inspections of these premises were made during the year 1946.

Applications for the registration of premises for the manufacture and sale of ice cream were refused in three instances.

The following table shows the number of samples taken and the results obtained on bacteriological examination:—

No. of Samples.	Plate Count		Coliform Bacilli	
	Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.	Absent.	Present
42	42	—	34	8

In the case of the plate count, “satisfactory” means that the number of organisms found to be present was under 100,000 in 1 cc, and “absent” in the case of coliform bacilli, means that none were found in 1/100 cc.

Slaughterhouses.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough, both being under the control of the Ministry of Food. Visits of inspection made during the year numbered 731.

The provisions of the slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, relating to humane slaughtering of animals have been complied with. The number of slaughtermen holding licences at the end of the year was 16.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and the result of the inspections:—

MEAT INSPECTION—CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle (excluding cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number known to have been killed ...	3045	1097	1080	7054	422	12698
Number inspected ...	3045	1097	1080	5290	422	10934
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	4	1	1	9	2	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	403	274	6	809	11	
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	13.36	25.06	.64	15.46	3.08	
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	17	28	1	—	2	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	356	448	—	—	12	
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	12.24	43.39	.09	—	3.31	

DISEASES.

PIGS		Tuberculosis	Abscesses	Bruised	Cirrhosis	Cystic	Dropsical & Emaciated	Enteritis	Flukes	Inflammation	Pneumonia	Unsound	TOTAL
Carcases & Offal		2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	4
Heads		9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Lungs		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
Hearts		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
Livers		—	3	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	5
Kidneys		—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Spleens		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Mesenteries ..		1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Intestines ..		—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Plucks		4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Pork		—	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2665
				lbs.								lbs.	2690
													lbs.

DISEASES.

SHEEP		Abscesses	Bruised	Cirrhosis	Cystic	Dropsical & Emaciated	Flukes	Inflammation	Moulds	Natural death	Suffocation	Unsound	TOTAL
Carcases & Offal		—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	1	3	—	9
Heads		2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Lungs		—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Livers		3	—	7	1	—	311	41	—	—	—	—	363
Plucks		—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	22	26
Hearts		—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Mutton		—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	403	414
			lbs.									lbs.	lbs.

Unsound Food.

The following foodstuffs were also condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

	lbs.		lbs.
Bread	53	Oats	4
Sausages	70	Dried egg	2
Lunch sausage	50	Semolina	54
Dried milk	225	Cake Mixture	12
Oatmeal	50	Jam	4
Tripe	30	Tinned Beef	3270
Sugar	17	„ Mutton	702
Peas	96	„ Milk	1912
Dates	154	„ Fruit	151
Butter beans	5	„ Fish	188
Figs	20	„ Beans	249
Prunes	5	„ Soup	28
Sultanas	60	„ Pudding	15
Raisins	30	„ Steakmeat	111
Confectionery	63	„ Meat &	
Preserved Meats	23	Vegetable	35
Eggs (201 in No.)	25	„ Preserved meat	23
Poultry, game	258	„ Spaghetti	4
Cereals	27	„ Milk powder	2
Marmalade	20	„ Sausage	3
Mustard	7	„ Syrup	2
Spice	7	„ Macedoine	2
Coffee Essence	6	„ Salad dressing...	3
Bottled sauce	9		

FISH.

Coley	70 lbs.
Whelks	1120 „
Hake	70 „
Huss	70 „
Skate	56 „
Kipperred herrings	344 „
Crabs	400 „
Cod	70 „

Approximate Weights:

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Beef and organs	38	13	3	21
Pork and organs	1	10	2	11
Mutton and organs		17	3	25
Fish		19	2	16
Miscellaneous	3	12	0	22
Total	45	14	1	11

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

118 samples were taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and submitted to the Public Analyst. Particulars of the samples and a summary of the results is shown in the following table:—

Samples	Number of		Result of Analyses	
	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Adulterated
Baking powder	—	1	1	—
Butter	2	—	1	1
Cayenne pepper	—	1	1	—
Cheese	2	—	2	—
Chocolate malt spread	1	—	1	—
Cocoa	1	—	1	—
Coffee and chicory ...	1	—	1	—
Cooking fat	1	—	1	—
Dessert Mould	—	1	1	—
Dried egg	1	—	1	—
Dried herbs	—	1	1	—
Dried milk	—	1	1	—
Gin	3	—	3	—
Ground nutmeg	—	1	—	1
Ice cream	—	5	5	—
Iron Tonic Cup	—	1	1	—
Jam	1	—	1	—
Jelly crystals	—	1	1	—
Lard	1	—	1	—
Lemon flavouring ...	—	1	1	—
Luncheon sausage ...	1	—	1	—
Margarine	2	—	2	—
Milk	49	7	55	1
Mineral water	—	4	4	—
Mixed spice	—	3	3	—
Rum	3	—	3	—
Sauce	—	1	1	—
Sausages	1	—	1	—
Sausage meat	4	—	3	1
Self-raising flour ...	—	1	1	—
Soup	—	2	2	—
Tincture of iodine ...	1	—	—	1
Vinegar	1	6	5	2
Whisky	4	—	4	—
	80	38	111	7

Particulars of Adulterated Samples:—

TINCTURE OF IODINE, Sample No. 231.—14% deficient in iodine. A letter of caution was sent to the vendor and to the wholesaler.

BUTTER, Sample No. 218.—Contained 16.22% of water. The result was reported to the Ministry of Food.

MILK, Sample No. 247.—Deficient in fat to the extent of 2.7%. A letter of caution was sent to the vendor.

VINEGAR, Sample No. 278.—Deficient in acetic acid to the extent of 23%. This was an informal sample, and the following formal sample was taken.

VINEGAR, Sample No. 300.—Deficient in acetic acid to the extent of 14%. A letter of caution was sent to the vendor.

SAUSAGE MEAT, Sample No. 311.—Contained approximately 43% of meat instead of $47\frac{1}{2}\%$ to $52\frac{1}{2}\%$. The result was reported to the Food Control Committee, and a letter of caution was sent to the vendor.

GROUND NUTMEG, Sample No. 356.—Contained no ground nutmeg, but was probably ground residue from some extracted spice. A letter of caution was sent to the vendor.

SECTION "F."

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND "OTHER DISEASES."

Infectious Diseases.

There were recorded 157 cases of notifiable infectious diseases. Excluding Tuberculosis, 103 notifications were made. This compares favourably with 453, which is the corresponding figure for 1945. A summary of the cases is given at the end of the report.

There were 4 cases of Diphtheria, and all of them recovered.

It was not an epidemic year for measles or whooping cough.

The two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were admitted to Kent Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone, and both recovered without impairment of vision.

Two patients with Puerperal Pyrexia were treated in Gravesend and North Kent Hospital. Both recovered completely.

There was one death from Pneumonia following measles. Two deaths occurred in Gravesend and North Kent Hospital from Salmonella infections, an infant 8 days old and a boy of 5 years.

Institutional Accommodation for infectious diseases.

The Council's Infectious Diseases Hospital is being adapted for use as a Maternity Home.

Patients needing institutional accommodation, either for treatment or isolation, are sent to the Bow Arrow Hospital, Dartford, by arrangement with the Dartford Joint Hospital Board. The other arrangements include the following:—

- (a) *Ophthalmia Neonatorum*—Kent Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone.
- (b) *Smallpox*—Capel Hospital, Dislingbury, through the County Medical Officer.
- (c) *Tuberculosis*—arranged by County Medical Officer.

Diphtheria Immunisations.

The arrangements in operation throughout the year are as follows:—

- (1) Immunisations are carried out at every Doctor's session at each of the Welfare Centres.
- (2) A special diphtheria immunisation session is held weekly at the Central Welfare Centre and School Clinic.
- (3) Immunisations on behalf of the Local Authority are carried out by General Practitioners at their Surgeries.
- (4) Birthday cards are sent out to every infant.
- (5) Enquiries are made of each mother attending the Clinics by the Medical Officer and Health Visitors regarding immunisation, and the Health Visitors are instructed to follow up all cases in which there is no record of the injections having been given.
- (6) Advertisements appear in the local press and on hoardings at frequent intervals.

During the year 485 children under 5 and 82 over 5 have been immunised. This makes a total of 567.

The total number immunised up to the end of the year is as follows:—

	Under 5 yrs.	5 and under 15 yrs.	Total
Public Health Service	976	3600	4756
Private Medical Practitioners ...	525	668	1193
Total	1501	4268	5769

It is estimated that about 60% of the total child population are protected. 70% of the 5 to 15 group have been immunised, but the under 5 group is only about 44%. This is most disappointing and efforts are being concentrated on the very young children.

Vaccination.

The Vaccination Officer has kindly supplied the following figures:—

- (1) Number of successful vaccinations 493
- (2) Number of declarations of objection 179

Tuberculosis.

The Kent County Council are responsible for all arrangements in connection with the diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis.

The Tuberculosis Clinic is provided at the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, where patients are seen every Wednesday at 1.0 p.m.

Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

Notification of New Cases.

In 1946, 54 cases were notified. The following table compares this figure with that of previous years:—

Year	Estimated Population of Registrar General	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	Total
1939	40.040	32	5	37
1940	35.550	28	5	33
1941	34.100	48	8	56
1942	35.460	43	12	55
1943	35.260	48	10	58
1944	35.080	34	8	42
1945	36.090	32	4	36
1946	40.340	45	9	54

The sources from which the notifications were received were:—

Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	...	32
Private Medical Practitioners	...	...	...	10
General Hospitals & Institutions	...	...	...	8
Service Establishments	...	...	...	4

Age and Sex Distribution.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of our 54 new cases:—

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—1	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—
5—10	1	—	1	1
10—15	2	1	—	2
15—20	2	4	—	1
20—25	3	1	—	1
25—35	10	9	—	1
35—45	5	2	—	—
45—55	2	1	—	2
55—65	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—
Totals	27	18	1	8
	—	—	—	—

Occupational Analysis.

				Male	Female
Apprentice	...	...	...	I	—
Artist	...	...	...	—	I
Architect	...	...	...	2	—
Clerk	...	...	...	—	I
Engineer	...	...	...	2	—
Ex-Service	...	...	...	8	I
Fireman—Tug	...	...	...	I	—
Factory	...	...	...	I	2
House Furnisher		...	...	I	—
Housewife	...	...	...	—	I3
Lockman P.L.A.		...	...	I	—
Labourer	...	...	...	2	—
Nurse	...	...	...	—	I
Nil	...	...	...	2	2
Hairdresser	...	...	...	—	I
Paper Maker	...	...	...	I	—
Photographer	...	...	...	I	—
Schoolchildren	...	...	...	4	4
Storekeeper	...	...	...	I	—
				—	—
				28	26
				—	—

Deaths and Death Rate.

There were 16 deaths registered from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 from Non-Pulmonary. This gives a death rate of .42 per 1,000 population for all forms of Tuberculosis.

The following table compares the figures for 1946 with those of the previous years:—

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Number	Rate per 1000 Pop.	Number	Rate per 1000 Pop.	Rate per 1000 Pop.
1939	17	.48	3	.07	.55
1940	24	.67	3	.08	.75
1941	15	.43	2	.05	.48
1942	18	.5	6	.16	.66
1943	21	.59	6	.17	.76
1944	15	.42	2	.05	.47
1945	19	.52	4	.11	.63
1946	16	.37	2	.05	.42

Tuberculosis Register.

The names of 36 persons were removed from the Register for the following reasons:—

Deaths	...	...	...	...	17
Left the district	...	...	...	...	11
Lost sight of	...	...	...	...	1
Recovered	...	...	...	...	5
Not confirmed	...	...	...	...	2
					—
					36
					—

317 persons remained on the Register on 31st December, 1946. They consist of the following:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary ...	161	105	266
Non-pulmonary ...	21	30	51
			—
			182
			—
			135
			—
			317
			—

Sanatorium and Hospital Treatment.

Twenty-six patients suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were admitted to Sanatoria. Four non-pulmonary cases received treatment in Hospital.

Legal Proceedings.

No action was necessary during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Veneral Diseases.

Administrative arrangements are under the control of the Kent County Council.

The Surgeon in charge of the Gravesend Clinic, C. M. Ockwell, Esq., F.R.C.S., has kindly supplied the following report:

NEW PATIENTS—GRAVESEND.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Syphilis	9	8	17
Soft Sore	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	15	13	28
Non-Venereal	21	21	42
Total No. of Patients (new) from all areas			494
No. of attendances of Gravesend patients			2065
Total No. of attendances—all areas			5942

DISCHARGES (all districts).

Discharged Cured :

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Syphilis	20	13	33
Soft Sore	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	69	26	55
Non-Venereal	269	59	328

Defaulted before Final Test of Cure:

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Syphilis	8	—	8
Gonorrhoea	2	—	2

Defaulted before Completion of Treatment:

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Syphilis	14	5	19
Gonorrhoea	6	1	7

The number of patients from the Gravesend area remain practically the same.

There is, however, a sharp increase from outside, mainly seamen from ships that berth at Tilbury from the Continent—mostly from Germany. The position in the latter area has been the subject of questions and debate in the Houses of Commons and Lords.

We are usually able to treat these cases intensively with Penicillin and thus provide a “Cordon Sanitaire” so far as this County is concerned.

C. M. OCKWELL, F.R.C.S.

Cleanliness, Good Health and Elimination of Verminous Conditions.

The Health Visitors have been active in their educative work in regard to cleanliness and freedom from vermin.

Scabies.

During the year, 332 persons suffering from scabies were met with. This includes 140 school children. The total figure for last year was 361.

All cases were treated at the Corporation Cleansing Centre which was opened last year. A female cleanliness officer and a male attendant are provided. 669 treatments were given. The facilities are thoroughly satisfactory and the service is much appreciated.

Corporation Mortuary.

19 bodies were received and 16 post-mortems performed.

Coroner's Inquests.

H.M. Coroner has kindly supplied the following information :—

“The number of inquests during the twelve months ending 31st December, 1946, was 21. There were 18 post-mortems in inquest cases and 23 in non-inquest cases.

One inquest was adjourned and not resumed, a conviction for manslaughter having been recorded. There were two cases of suicide whilst of unsound mind; 16 accidental deaths. There were two open verdicts, one for death from drowning, the other for known causes other than injuries or drowning.”

Causes of Death Among Civilians, Live Births and Still Births, as provided by the Registrar General.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	11	5	16
7. Tuberculosis, Other forms ...	1	1	2
8. Syphilitic Diseases ...	4	—	4
9. Influenza ...	5	1	6
10. Measles ...	1	—	1
11. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
12. Acute Encephalitis, Infantile ...	—	—	—
13. Cancer—Oesophagus and Uterus ...	2	3	5
14. Cancer—Stomach and Duodenum ...	6	5	11
15. Cancer—Breast ...	—	8	8
16. Cancer—All other sites ...	24	18	42
17. Diabetes ...	—	—	—
18. Intracranial vascular lesions ...	23	41	64
19. Heart Disease ...	65	44	109
20. Other Circulatory Diseases ...	10	5	15

21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	14	11	25
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	6	6	12
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...				4	—	4
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...				4	—	4
25.	Diarrhoea—under 2 years	...	...			4	2	6
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...		—	—	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...			4	8	12
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	11	1	12
29.	Puerperal and post abortion sepsis					—	—	—
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...			—	1	1
31.	Premature Births	...	...	...		2	2	4
32.	Congenital Malformations	...	...			4	5	9
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...			5	—	5
35.	Other violent causes	...	...			11	3	14
36.	All other causes	...	...	...		24	19	43
Total—All causes						<u>246</u>	<u>191</u>	<u>437</u>

DEATHS OF INFANTS under 1 year:

					Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	15	12	27
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
					—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	...	16	12	28
					—	—	—

Births.

For Infant Mortality Rate etc.

LIVE BIRTHS:	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	489	478	967
Illegitimate	29	29	58
Total ...	518	507	1025
STILL BIRTHS:			
Legitimate	11	12	23
Illegitimate	1		1
Total ...	12	12	24

Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1946.

DISEASE	Under one year	One and under 2 yrs.	2 and under 3 yrs.	3 and under 5 yrs.	5 and under 10 yrs.	10 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs.	65 years and over	Total	Number removed to Hospital
Diphtheria ...					1	2		1			4	4
Scarlet Fever ...				6	13	4	3	1			27	14
Whooping Cough ...	3		3	4	3						13	
Measles ...	2	2	3	11	15		2				35	
Pneumonia ...			1	1						1	3	
Dysentery (Bacillary) ...										1	1	
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...						1					1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2										2	2
Erysipelas ...								1	7	2	10	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...								1	1		2	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis					3	1	2	1	2		9	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...					1	3	10	26	4	1	45	15
Salmonella Infections ...	1				1	1					3	2
Malaria ...								2			2	1
Total ...	8	2	7	22	37	12	17	33	14	5	157	45

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Birth and Death Rates for last ten years.

Year	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Number of Births ...	599	694	686	621	536	730	730	725	761	1025
Birth Rate, (per 1,000 population)	15.1	17.4	16.8	17.46	16.51	20.58	20.7	20.6	21.0	25.4
Number of Deaths ...	466	441	410	506	470	447	434	435	430	437
Death Rate, (per 1,000 population)	11.5	11.09	10.5	14.2	13.7	12.6	12.3	12.4	11.9	10.83

Causes of Death of Infants under one year of age.

	Total		Under 1 week		Under 1 month		1 and under 3 months		3 and under 6 months		6 and under 9 months		9 and under 12 months	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Prematurity & Congenital Debility ...	3	3	2	3			1							
Bronchitis 	1	2					1	2						
Pneumonia 	2						2							
Congenital Malformation ...		2			2									
Birth Injuries 	2		2											
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	4	2			2	2	2							
Other Causes 	4	3		2	1	1	2		1					
Totals ...	16	12	4	5	3	5	8	2	1					
	28		9		8		10		1					

The following Reports have been submitted:—

- | | | | |
|-----|---|--------|----------|
| (1) | Home Helps & Domestic Helps Scheme | ... | 29.10.46 |
| (2) | Moral Welfare Work in Gravesend | ... .. | 6.11.46 |
| (3) | Health Congress, Royal Sanitary Institute | | 17. 6.46 |
| (4) | Visit to Peckham Health Centre | ... .. | 10.12.46 |

Published Work.

- | | | | |
|-----|---|--------|------------|
| (1) | Towards a Definition of Health, "The Medical Officer" | ... .. | 30. 3.46 |
| (2) | Some Principles of Health Education in their Historical Relationships. (Thesis approved for M.D. University of London.) | ... .. | July, 1946 |

